

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 23-29 and 31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 29 is amended with support from the specification at paragraph [0016]. No new matter has been added.

I. Rejections Of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 17-20, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. JP07-168507A (Yano). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claim 17, this claim recites a waste developer recovery box integrally attached to the developer replenishment box. Yano does not teach this feature. Instead, paragraph [0022] of Yano teaches a way to remove paper powder from the developer cleaned from the image forming device. This allows the developer cleaned from the image forming device to be returned to the developer's supply and to be reused. Thus, Yano cannot reasonably be considered to teach a waste developer recovering box as Yano does not teach a waste developer. Thus, claim 17 is not anticipated by Yano, and is allowable.

Claims 18-21, and 23-27 and 31 are dependent on claim 17. Because claim 17 is allowable, dependent claims 18-21, 23-27 and 31 are likewise allowable over Yano for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 17, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Additionally, regarding claim 25, Fig. 1 of Yano discloses an upper surface of the housing of the replenishment box 28 that is not inclined. Thus, for these additional reasons, Yano does not anticipate claim 25.

Additionally, regarding claim 26, Yano does not disclose an amount of developer that the developer replenishment box 28 can contain and an amount of developer that the developing housing 25 can contain. Thus, for these additional reasons, Yano does not anticipate claim 26.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding independent claim 29, this claim has been amended to incorporate the feature "at least a portion of the developer replenishment box of the image forming section is arranged in an area which is surrounded by the inclination portion, a horizontal plane extended from the lower end of the inclination portion, and a vertical plane extended from the upper end of the inclination portion." Thus, claim 29 is allowable over Yano for at least the similar reasons given for the allowability of claims 1 and 15. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection.

II. Rejection Of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-6, 9-16 and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yano in view of Kimura (JP11-193164A). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 15, the Office Action concedes that "Yano does not teach at least a portion of the developer storage space as the image forming section is arranged in an area which is surrounded by the inclination portion, a horizontal plane extended from the lower end of inclination portion, and a vertical plane extended from the upper end of the inclination portion." However, the Office Action asserts that Kimura allegedly teaches these features.

As shown in drawing 2 of Kimura, the developer storage space 13 is disposed to the right of the area recited in the claims. Therefore, Kimura does not recite the above feature and fails to overcome deficiencies of Yano. Thus, claims 1 and 15 are allowable, because they are not unpatentable over Yano in view of Kimura.

Claims 3-11 are dependent upon claim 1. Because claim 1 is allowable, dependent claims 3-11 are likewise patentable over Kimura and Yano for at least the reasons discussed

above in connection with claim 1 as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding independent claims 2 and 16, the Office Action relies on Kimura as teaching the feature of "at least a portion of a walled surface that surrounds the developer storage space extending along the inclination portion." However, as shown in Fig. 2 of Kimura, no portion of the developer storage box can reasonably be considered to teach extending along the inclined portion. A wall surface that surrounds developer storage box 13 extends along the horizontal surface, and not the inclined surface. Thus, claims 2 and 16 are allowable in view of Kimura and Yano.

Claims 12-14 are dependent upon claim 2. Because claim 2 is allowable, dependent claims 12-14 are likewise patentable over Yano and Kimura for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 2 as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding independent claim 28, the Office Action asserts that Yano discloses that the developing housing and the developer replenishment box are disposed in an upper part of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body.

However, the developer container 25 of Yano, which can reasonably be considered to correspond to the developing housing recited in the claims, is clearly disposed in a position that corresponds to a lower position of the latent image writing position 27.

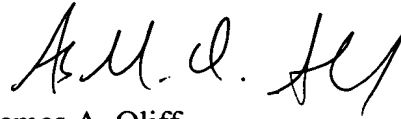
Therefore, independent claim 28 is allowable in view of Yano and Kimura. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-21, 23-29 and 31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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